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## Letter from Stephen Patterson to his mother Julia on July 17, 1862

Stephen Patterson

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Clarksburg July 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mother

I received your last letter to day and as you are anxious to hear from me I take my knapsack and sit under a large chestnut tree that stands near our tent to answer it I am very sorry I caused you any anxiety I know I ought to have written sooner but if you knew what inconvenience it is for a private to write in camp I think you would excuse me for not writing more frequently hereafter I will try to write home twice a week at least But as far as my health is concerned I never had better in my life our rations are as good as we had at Camp Chase the bread and coffee are better so we dont care much how soon we leave here Charles Anderson I suppose is doing all he can to raise his regiment as he is



making speeches every where We know every  
thing that is going in Ohio as we get the  
Cincinnati papers every night at ten  
o'clock I would like to be there to get a  
commission in ~~General~~ Charlie's regiment I  
guess it won't be full before our three months  
will keep. Ashley Brown is doing his  
part towards helping the people of Kentucky  
He and a few others seems to be the only ones  
that are doing <sup>(any thing)</sup> to I think it's a disgrace to  
Ohio to see Kentucky run over by such an  
outlaw as Morgan The boys are very  
anxious to go to Kentucky ~~the~~ can fight  
for the Kentucky people but we don't believe  
in fighting for arrogant half-civilized ~~large~~  
secessionists I wouldn't give a straw for  
all the Union men in Western Virginia  
I have heard men that have been all  
through Western Virginia say the same.  
One thing it is good for and that is black  
beries they are the principal thing they raise  
here they wouldn't raise ~~them~~ but they are



to lazy to keep them out of their fields  
The regiment lives on them almost ~~and~~  
they have been ripe the other day a  
few <sup>and I</sup> went out about a mile from camp  
and got a bucket full in a few minutes on  
our ride home we saw some cows in a field  
close by the road we thought we might as  
well have some milk for eat with our  
black berries so I got over and got 3  
cans full of as nice rich milk as <sup>from</sup> you  
at home. I am glad you have heard from  
Will and Bob the 5th is still at ~~Cambel~~ <sup>and</sup>  
I believe. Our Lieut Col formerly belonged to  
that regiment Tell uncle Charley that  
it is not to late yet if he wants to give me  
a commission It seems ~~to me~~ <sup>to me</sup> that he might  
have found another camping ground without  
being so close to our house you will find  
~~them~~ it a great nuisance I know from  
experience I suppose ~~the~~ aunt Harrie has  
gone home John ~~stated~~ she was going  
in is <sup>this</sup> letter I shouldnt think you would



want them there as you have so much  
~~work~~ to do I don't see how you stand it. ~~Weather~~  
working all the time as hard as you do  
I hope you won't get sick I suppose you  
will soon be through with the harvesting  
I sent home a Clarcksburg paper last  
week that will tell <sup>you</sup> pretty much all  
about the ~~set~~ we are the only troops  
here except a battery of artillery I don't  
think there is any prospect of us leaving  
here for 2 or 3 weeks yet Tell John  
I will write to him soon I see  
the postmaster coming down the ~~hill~~  
hill gathering up the letters no more at  
present Give my love to all the family

Your affectionate son

Stephen J Patterson

P.S. When you answer put some postage  
stamps in the letter

S. J. P.